

Minutes

Asheville City Council Public Safety Committee Meeting

March 24, 2014

3:30 p.m.-5:00 p.m.

Training Room, Municipal Building

Committee Members: Cecil Bothwell, Jan Davis, Chris Pelly

Guests: Donna Bollinger, Ellen Carr, Kit Cramer, Kerry Daniel, Larry Holt, Kitty Love, Chris Peterson, Carr Swicegood, Gwen Wisler (City Council), Carol Holstrom, Byron Greiner

Staff: City Manager Gary Jackson, Interim Deputy City Manager Mike Morgan, Assistant City Manager Cathy Ball, Chief William Anderson, Deputy Chief Wade Wood, Sgt. Jackie Stepp, Sgt. Mike McClanahan, Chief Scott Burnette, Chief Barry Hendron, Fire Marshal Wayne Hamilton, Deputy Fire Marshal Kelly Hinz, Assistant Fire Marshal Rusty Freck, Interim City Attorney Martha McGlohan, Assistant Attorney Jannice Ashley, Director of Communication and Public Engagement Dawa Hitch, Interim Superintendent for Business Services Christy Bass, Real Estate Manager Nikki Reid, Executive Assistant to Deputy City Manager Alex Carmichael

Chairperson Davis called the meeting to order at 3:35 PM.

1. **Approval of the February Minutes:** Councilmember Bothwell motioned to approve the February minutes. Councilmember Pelly seconded. The motion passed with all in favor.
2. **New Business:**
 - a. **Graffiti Ordinance -**
Assistant City Manager Cathy Ball, Chief of Police William Anderson, and Communication and Public Engagement Director Dawa Hitch, reported on the proposed graffiti ordinance. Chairman Jan Davis remarked that was the third time PSC considered proposals to deal with graffiti and that it was a growing problem in Asheville. Ms. Ball noted that graffiti was a difficult problem to solve and that there was no one silver bullet. The proposed ordinance was an effort to find the most effective mixture of solutions. It was a three-pronged approach consisting of: 1. education and outreach, 2. enforcement, and 3. removal.

Ms. Hitch outlined a community engagement plan focused on reporting instances of graffiti vandalism that included a public input process. Chief Anderson discussed a selective special enforcement effort to identify graffiti hotspot locations and times, which included a “safe cam” program to work with property owners who already had cameras in place. APD would also continue to work with Nuisance Court. Ms. Ball discussed a removal process based on a best practice survey of other localities in NC, which required property owners to remove graffiti.

5. Public Comment:

- a.** The Committee heard comments on the ordinance proposal from approximately 12 individuals.

The Public Safety Committee went into closed session to establish or to instruct the City’s staff or negotiating agents concerning the position to be taken by or on behalf of the City in negotiating the terms of a contract for the acquisition of real property by purchase, option, exchange or lease. The statutory authorization is contained in G.S. 143-318.11(a)(5).

The meeting adjourned at 4:58 PM. The next meeting will be 04/28/14.